NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A MILITARY NOVEL

UNDER TWO FLAGS. A Novel. By Outes; author of "Idalia," "Randelph Gordon," "Strathmere," "Coul Castlemaine's Gage," etc., etc. 12mo. pp. 467. Phila-delphia; J. B. Lappincott & Co.

This novel has a preface, which, however, the mather is much too refined to call a preface, but entitles "Avis an lectour." And this advertisement to the reader deposes and says that the stery was originally written for a military periodical, wherein it was reseived with much favor by military men; in conscquence of which reception it is reissued in permament form for those unhappy warriers who could not obtain it in the magazine. It is incredible that every officer in the British Army whose foot was on his native heath, and whose name was MacSmith, should not have pawned his last epsulette to buy the current number of a story so absorbing, and so we suppose it Is for the Indian and Canadian market that Mr. Lippincott sends forth this brown muslin cyclopedia of blood and thunder; unless, indeed, he holds it up to the chieftains of the Army of the United States, as the glass wherein those noble youths should dress themselves.

It has been our misfortune to read an earlier novel by "Ouida." "You shall find in the comparisons between Macedon and Monmonth that the situations, lock you, are both alike. There is a river in Macedon; and there is also, moreover, a river in Monmouth; it is called Wye, at Monmouth: but it is out of my prains, what is the name of the other river but 'tis all one, 'tis so like as my fingers is to my fingers, and there is salmons in both." "Omda" is economic of resources. Given a fox hunt, a horse race, saming table, unlimited intrigues, several titles, fast women, tailors, Jews, a volume of tactics, a vocabulary of slang, amber hair, white hands, general Indecency, a classical dictionary, and the result of the brew is half a dozen Etwo-volume novels, whose only difference lies in the title pages, and the baptismal names of the unheroic heroes and heroines. The Honorable Bertie Cecil, second son of Viscount

Reyalhen, is the Achilles of this new Iliad. It is, of course, very tall, very handsome, and very arisbecratic. There was a period following the successfal appearance of "Jane Eyre," when all the heroes of diluted fiction were shaggy, short, saturaine, and savage. The reaction has set in. It is Narcissus, not and grace, and genius, and blood, and breeding are as plenty as blackberries in pages like these; and every aristocrat has them all, and every plebeian hasn't the ghost of either. Now, like all good Americans, our heart goes out to an aristocrat. The cheer-In spectacle of the elevation of a class at the cost of the painful degradation of the multitude, thrills us with delight, and tills us with a profound and satisfying sense of the fitness of things. Our best hat was hopelessly flattened in our futile attempt to catch a glimpse of the Prince of Wales when he rode through Broadway, and above all Americans do we hold Mr. J. B. C. Abbott enviable. Therefore, when we found that the honorable Bertie, and his intimate friend, Lord Rockingham, and his papa, and his brother, and his comrades in arms, were preëminently and to the obscuration of all other qualities, aristocratic, we carefully studied these so eminent models of morals and mold ourselves in their likeness. What were it not worth to impress the driver of a street-car with our haughty mien, and well-bred nonchalancef What were it not worth, on a Saturday afternoon in the Park, to bestride our hired back with the loftiness of s lord, and the listlessness of a noble Briton?

The first element of an aristocratic entity we find to be laziness, utter and entire. A laziness which refuses to saturate its handkerchief with Jockey Club, or fasten the buttons of its gloves. A laziness to which reading its morning paper is a bardship, and lounging in its carriage a fatigue. A laziness which is rude, which is contemptuous, which is despicable.

Hardly less emphasized is the ability to swindle.

A true blue British gentleman, it appears, no matter what his income, is compelled by the free-masonry of his Order, to incur mountains of debt, which he has neither the ability nor the disposition to pay, to cheat his tradesmen, to strip the very Jews, to draw post obits, to give paper which is not worth the ink upon its face.

If he be a sluggard and a swindler, he has not proved his noble lineage unless he turn out a gamester as well. To earn money is a disgrace beyond ster as well. To care money is a disgrace beyond attenuench. To win it at eards, or dice, is the airy and clear de in lune. How they got home—for at their rate of speed they must have traveled, in seven five-pound points is the innocent recreation in which the sturdy British intellect unbends after the strain of a morning with its tailor, or the shock of a dun frem a low-lived creditor. Let'not the young American who has all these gentlemanly virtues feel that he has yet attained the measure of an aristocrat. It remains that he should race horses, that he should own a stud, he, who cannot pay his laundress's bill that he should bet high, with no mency to pay hi bets; that he should emulate jockeys in the devilmay-care fashion of his riding, and the volubility of his turf slang.

Nor is this enough. The genuine aristocrat establishes in town mansions, opera singers of questionable beauty and unquestionable brass. He endows with shooting boxes and suburban villas, ballet girls brief of skirt and brave of tongue. He conducts the most hazardons and most serious of ffirtations with the wife of his friend. He confides these amours with more or less minuteness of circumstance to the chivalrous keeping of his body-servant. His days are emptiness and dishonesty. His nights are rioting and debauch. And, finally, this model gentleman, who has no affection for any human being profound enough to make his pulse beat quicker, breaks that viscus he calls his beart when forced to abandon his race-horse forever. It is some excuse for him, however, that the racehorse is much more worthy of his love and grief than any human being with whom he comes in contact,

Lest our enthusiasm be thought to blind us, let us burriedly sketch the career of this new knight, withont fear, and without reproach. Chivalry is not dead

while Cecil lives. In the very opening line we learn one of his virtues, He is fastidious concerning his tops. Not those reel- brings him twenty Napoleons, which she begs him ing toys which lay, like Heaven, about him in his infancy; but the fair facing of his hunting boots. They capable of further polish. And then, if there be the least tint of brown, where all should be fair as his virgin soul, this new D'Orsay will not incase his manly calves in them. Not he. He will be set quick I the earth, and bowled to death with furnips first. He has a right to be fastidious about his boots, however, for the "mcorrigible tops," which were introduced to us, are set down "beside six pairs of their fellows, and six times six of every other sort of boots that the covert side, the heather, the flat-why emphasize that use when it is evident that they are all for the flat ?- or the 'sweet | shady side of Pall Mall ever knew." Six pairs, and lope over the plain, au clair de la lune. So he starts one pair are seven pairs. Six times six pairs are for jail, but on the way he has a mental illumination thirty-six pairs. Thirty-six pairs and seven pairs to the effect that his long, and hitherto lazy, legs are forty-three pairs, which, allowing two boots to each pair, makes a total of eighty-six boots. Now, a young man compelled to harbor and to contemplate, day and night, eighty-six boots, must know with unerring certainty a boot's constitution and possibilities, and may well demand, in tops, "a tawny color, like the tiger's skin in the suburbs and climbs upon an ivy vine to a dark Perhaps it was the great preponderance of boots over bullion in his treasury, which ade him give so many more kicks than halfpence to his creditors and dependents. And the archeologist will inquire, a hundred years hence, whether the title of the chapter, and the sobriquet of the Henorable Cecil, which Mr. Lippincott's careless proofreaders make "Beauty of the Brigades," is not a misprint for " Boot-y of the Brigades." Besides its leathern wealth, the dressing-room of the young Guardaman contains "pretty things enough to fill tal bottles containing all the perfumes of the painted bit, and never stops till be reaches bis name in turquoises on the lid; all his charming woman who accompanied him in broades, boot-jacks, boot-trees, whip stands, were the stag hunt an clair de la lunc, and in whose of ivory and tortoise-shell. Above the mantel piece | hands is his reputation, goes to a dinner party were crossed swords, in all the varieties of gilt, gold, at the house of an Austrian Princess, and forgets sitver, ivory, alonginum, chineled and embassed all shout bim, and as that is the and of her, so far as sational, that she appears a very vulgar Joan of Arc.

pictures, with a Landseer, a Harry Hall, a hunter or heart and so much purity with deep regret; but not, and all his set are youths to make one's heart as two by Herring, and several fair women in crayons. we hope, without having conveyed to the reading The hangings were silken, and rose colored, and a world that contagion of virtue with which true nodelicious confusion prevailed, pell-mell, box-spurs, hunting-stirrups, cartridge-cases, curb-chains, muzzle-loaders, hunting-flasks, and white gauntlets being mixed up with Paris novels, pink notes, point-lace ties, bracelets, and bouquets to be sent to various destinations, and velvet and silk bags for bank notes, cigars, or vesuvians." On a sofa in this delightful apartment lay the handsomest man in the regiment, exhausted by his plunge in his bath-tub, as big as a small pond," but anchored firmly in the next room. They do things on so large a scale in London. Now there is hardly a house in New-York, except the Fifth Avenue Hotel, which would and his bath-tub. Considering that none of his lavish surroundings were paid for, one may admire equally his taste and his generosity. Over, and over, and over, we are informed that he wa-'thoro'bred," and that his set was "thoro'bred;" so let all half-breeds, who live in a hall bedroom, and pay their debts, forswear their vulgar honesty. It is sweet to linger with this young Apollo, splendid in his youth and glorious in his beauty, simple, and faithful, and manly. But the action of the story harries us on. Bertie proceeds to give his young brother fifty pounds, which don't belong to himself, that the youth may pay a gambling debt. Then he rides out on escort duty, to install Parliament, and growls and curses about the weather, and then he goes to Richmond to see his Opera Queen, the Zu-Zu, and that is the end of his personal efforts in that chapter. But the novelist makes episode to relate how he told an unblushing lie to a jealous husband who surprised him, "en tête-à-tête with his handsome Countess." Which cheap fiction the author calls a "Richelieu-like impudence," and adds that "it made his reputation on the town," and that " the ladies called it very wicked, but were charmed by it, and petted the sinner, who, from that time till now, had held his own with them." O, women of England, thank your chronicler "Onida," who thus immortalizes your purity, your fineness, your scrupulous honor! What a silly mad-woman was Roman Lucretia! She should have invited Sextus to her parties, and danced the Latian two-step waltz with him. So much demestic infelicity might have been avoided had she been "thore'bred," and known that her melodramatic

procedure would be " bad form." tocrat, we come to a chapter entitled "A Stag Hunt au Clair de la Lune." We shut ourselves up with a French dictionary, till we found that this perspicuons phrase means A Stag Hunt by Moonlight. But English is inadequate for a novel like this. The opening conversation between Cecil, and his friend Rockingham is cribbed, we should say, from the Confessions of Fitzboodle. The adventure of the chapter is original. Cecil takes the "handsome Countess"—who has "Titian-like lips, and Velasquez eyes,"-to dine at Richmond, and drives her home through the Park in the moonlight. One of the horses has been accustomed to bunt, and when he sees a stag in the distance, dashes off, his mate with him, in a mad pursuit. They canter, they gallop, they fly, they tear out of the road. They jump into a bramble bush, and scratch out all their eyes, and, although Cecil is "a perfect whip," and a very Hotspur with horses, he can do nothing with these apocryphal beasts, because "they-the lovers, not the steeds-had both seen the Babylonian sun set over the ruins of the Birs Nimrad, and had talked of Paris fashions while they did so; and had both leaned over the terrace of Bellosguardo, while the moon was full on Giotto's tower, and had discussed their dresses for the Verlione masquerade," and Cecil was in a "referce," in consequence. At last they see the river before them, and there is but one reprieve from instant death, and that so desperate that the daring Cecil has no hope to succeed. Nevertheless, he takes the reins between his teeth, and, with a leap which would make the fortune of a circus-rider, lights on the back of the wicked hunter, who, surprised at the unexpected attention, stops short. The mailphaeton tips over, crash-bang, the "Velasquez eyes" lose in a faint, but Cecil, rising in immortal youth, a very phenix of guardsmen, says: "Dearest, you are the stolen Richmond dinner, and this little stag-hunt pages, at least ninety degrees-the author wisely leaves to the imagination. But get home they did it is probable that among Cecil's eighty-six boots he possessed the famous seven-league pair-and a month after they were all at Baden. But while he promised that he would never, never tell, "he forgot that he thus pledged his honor to leave four hours of his life so buried that, however much he needed, he neither should nor could account for them," which is not more portentous than grammatical.

Before this little episode, however, his horse, Forest King, wins a race, and no end of money, and Cecil enters him for the Great Baden Race, on whose successful issue all his future depends. But at the first race his manly soul is outraged by the attempt of a "welcher," Ben. Davis, to take bets with his exemplary young brother, Berkeley, and, almost withour effort, he drops the audacions welcher into the ditch outside the grounds. For which bath the man yows vengeance, and conspires with the racer's groom-whose long arrears in wages might excuse his transgression-to paint the bit of Forest King on the day of the Baden meeting. Then Berkeley implores Cecil to give him more pound notes; but as the Guardsman has, by this time, neither cash or credit left, he politely but emphatically refuses, and Berkeley departs with a dreadful resolve written in

his dark countenance. Well, Ben Davis paints the bit, and Forest King i beaten, and Cecil observes that it is all up with him. and retires to the obscurest labyrinths of the grounds, where nobody can find him except the twopenny postman, and Rockingham's sister, Lady Venetia, called Petite Reine, eight years of age, of astonishing precocity, and many ruffles. The child to accept, but his proud spirit refuses because it is not enough. Still, true to his instinct of appropriamust be cleaned till the leather and the lackey are in- ting all he can lay his hands on without paying for, he takes the enameled bon bounière (candy-box, dear plebeians) in which she kept her wealth. The postman brings a letter from Berkeley, in which he says that he has forged Lord Rockingham's check, and drawn the money. Then Cocil stamps his feet, and tears his hair, and says, "Anything but disgrace!" Then Ben Davis, into whose possession the forged bill has come, has him arrested, and when Lord Rockingham begs him to clear himself he will not, for, lo and behold you, the very time at which the bill was presented was the time when he was chasing the antewere not made in vain. "' Beauty of the Brigades," he softly marmurs to himself, "is its own excuse for being." So he runs, and though Ben Davis, and all the Baden Constabulary and the bloodhounds of the Grand Duke, and all the mob of the race week follow him, he reaches a house The pursuit is stayed beneath him, the ducal army which has by this time arrived is drawn up in line of battle, several columbiads are fired through the floor, and a number of bombs explode in the corners of the gallery. But as he has the presence of mind not to stir, the mob with one voice exclaims, "He is not there," and goes back to Baden. He then remembers that he has promised to dance with the 'bandsome Countess' at a masque ball that evening, so he trips lightly back to town, filches a domino and masque from a carriage, finds his charmer, executes a the Palais Royal," which women had sent him. The two-step waltz with her goes forth again, mounts dressing table was "littered with gold and crys- Forest King, who had by that time recovered from Arabia. His dressing-case was of silver, with Algeria a morning or two after. Meanwhile the

bility is quickened. Cecil enters the Algerian army as a private, but in a week or two he has, single-handed, and alone, exterminated seven separate tribes of the red-handed sons of Ishmael, produced contentment in the army in place of mutiny, and would be a Field Marshal on the eighth day of his enlistment but for the enmity of his Colonel, Chateauroy, who degrades him, and hates him. And the reason of his spite is that he carried off the favorite of the Emir, which Cecil didn't approve, so that Bayard went into his Colonel's tent and said "BOO" to him in such a terrific manner that the miscreant shook in his cavalry have contained the Honorable Bertie, his boots, boots, and immediately sent the lady back. But he hated his subordinate ever after. This is a striking picture of the discipline and the manners of the French army, and of the relation between chief and private. Thus matters went on for 12 years. Every morning Cecil said to himself * Fee-Fau-Fum, I smell the blood of an Ara-bi-UN," and shore off the heads of twenty dogs of unbelievers daily, but it was all of no use. He was but a Corperal in the Chasseurs Then a pretty vivandière named Cigarette fell in

ove with him. She is a dear creature who smokes,

chews, swears, drinks brandy, talks slang,

and knows not the name of woman-

hood. Strange to say, Cecil does not return her

passion. At which she threatens to be revenged.

And now Lord Rockingham's sister reappears.

Twelve years have converted her into a blooming young widow of twenty. It was necessary that she should be very rich, and have another name, so that Cecil should not know her, at first. So she is wedded to a Prince who, with rare consideration for his wife's happiness, dies in the ceurse of half an hour, and leaves her more money than the Rothschilds ever dreamed of, all in Spanish bonds and Spanish eastles. Well, she and Cecil fall in love with each other, each without knowing the identity of the other. In France ladies of wealth and position frequently do fall in love with the illustrious obscure, and there is the "Lady of Lyons" to prove it. So they meet at a caravanseral in the desert, where it is so hot that the potatoes are cooked in the sand, and where the Princess Corona, alias the Lady Venetia, alias Petite Reine, glides to meet him in an airy attire of "superb cachemeres sweeping the floor." Then and there, by means of the bonbounière, they discover that he is he, and that she is she. She entreats him to let her tell Lord Rockingham, who will providentially arrive next day. But by this time old Lord Royallieu is dead, and his eldest son is dead, and Cecil is supposed to be dead, and Berkeley has succeeded to the pecrage which Cecil proposes to let him keep as the reward of a virtuous life. He cannot disprove the forgery without implicating Berkeley, who believes him dead, and is happy. So he says that he has found the wisdom of life to be to grin and bear it: that, if he cannot marry her, he would rather prefer to be shot than not. So she goes off on a journey, and he returns to camp, and engages in a series of wild mirrays, usually in the proportion of one Cecil to fifty Arabs, but he uniformly conquers. Once, however, when the odds have been a hundred and ninety to one, or thereabouts, though he beats of course, he is left for dead on the field. Cigarette rescues him and saves his life. Once before she has saved his life; for, being a veritable Achilles, he has the vulnerable heel, and those miscreants of Ishmachtes persist in finding it. Well, he recovers; the Princess Corona returns to camp, and sends for him to bid him an eternal acieu. Against discipline, he goes. He repeats Byron's touching but obscure lines, beginning, Fare thee well, and if forever," swears fidelity, and is returning, when he encounters Châteauroy, his anacled, and carried to the guard-house. The

Princess departs at dawn, ignorant of the little affair and Cecil is sentenced to be shot at daybreak of the second morning thereafter. Cigarette is down at Algiers, but she gets the news by a carrier pigeon. Maddened, she dashes into the street, where the first person she meets is Berkeley Cecil. With an instinct quite marvelons, considering that she has never seen nor heard of him before, she knows that he is Bertie's brother, and demands of him a full confession and explanation. Frightened out of his senses, Berkeley writes that the Chasseur is Lord Royallieu, and a horse, and gallops fifty miles under an Africau sun to a fortress, where the Marshal of France, Viceroy of Africa, had that day arrived. She appeals to him in the name of all the virtues to pardon Cecil. He refuses. Then, in tones of thunder, she informs him that the victimais a Peer of England, whereupon he offers her his best horse, and begs her to kill it in the effort to save that hope of Albion. Midway her horse fails her. She sees a band of ray aging Arabs who have sworn to tear her limb from limb. She rushes boldly upon them and expresses her eagerness to be dismembered, if the Chief will but ride himself with the pardon, and save Cecil. Converted to the Christian faith by her courage, he gives her his barbed steed and his blessing, and she speed on. Meantime Rockingham has heard that the finest soldier in the army is to be shot, and seeks him to ask his photograph; he finds him standing beside his coffin with the French army training the cannon. "Ah, ha!" he yells, "have you a strawberry mark on your left arm?" Cecil, too, high-minded to be agitated by this unexpected meeting with the friend of his youth calmly replies "No." "Then," says Rockingham, flinging his arms about him, "you are the longlost Bertie." The soldiers object to the attitude a interfering with the accuracy of their aim. But he wreathes himself about that mild Laocoon, and speaks contumacionsly of the French army. Twelve regiments fall upon him, and drag him away, and the signal to fire is given. At this instant Cigarette appears at the top of a hill, half a mile away-one of those hills which so thickly bestrew African deserts -waves the pardon over her head, and shricks Wait, in the name of France!" "But the cry came too late; the volley was fired, the crash of sound thrilled across the woods that made THEM [Query-Whom ?] pause; the death that was doomed was dealt." Now we supposed that this would finish Cecil. and very glad we were. Good gracious! no. The sepulcher opens once more its ponderous and marble jaws to cast him up again. He only "staggered slightly, and then stood erect, grazed only by some few of the halls. The flash of fire was not so fleet as the swiftness of her love, and on his breast she threw herself, and turned her head backward with her old, danntless, smilit smile as the bails pierced her bosom, and broke her limbs, and were turned away by that shield of warm young life from him." Half a mile au pied, as "Onida" would say, while a pistol ball

King, who turns up again on the last page. This is the utterly preposterous thread of the story It outdoes Mrs. Henry Wood in absurdity, and yet the preëminent mischief of "Ouida's" novels is that they are not stupid. Impossible as these men and women are, they are not sticks. A hurrying action pervades the volumes; a certain cheap but positive power informs them. A gandy tinsel-rhetoric charms school-girls and clerks. A bad classicism and an interlarding of foreign phrases give the pages an air of erudition, and, notwithstanding flagrant errors of synfax, nine readers out of ten declare them "so well written." They are pernicious books because they are vulgar books. Forms, and shows, and pretenses are the good things of life. A good-natured, easy-going scamp is made to appear a hero. Inherent impurity is predicated of all women. A base gallantry is imputed to all men. Even the virtues masquerade in such tawdry attire that they are hardly better than vices. Cigarette, for example, has really a noble nature, but she is so melo-dramatic and sen-

travels two rods, is, undoubtedly, the best time on

record, but if Cigarette were capable of this, how

could she make the blunder of trusting to the slow

speed of an Arabian steed? On foot, she might have

made the two hundred miles or so in season, but not

even Dexter could do a half mile in pistol-shot time.

Well, of course Cigarette dies, a martyr to her love

and Cecil lives and goes back to England and claims

the peerage, and marries the Princess Petile Reine

Venetia Corona, and gives lumps of sugar to Forest

hilts, and on the walls were a few perfect French | the novel is concerned, we take our leave of so much | in whom the vulgarity overbears the heroism. Cecil with their pretense of high breeding, their shrivelled souls, their blackguardly babits, their affected sense of honor. Enthusiasm, belief, achievement, are con demned as "bad form." Coldness, and sluggishness and cynicism are the aristocratic attributes of a gen tleman. If these novels are a picture of the jouness dorée of England, that unhappy nation harbors en emics at home more dangerous than all the armies of the Continent, and needs such defenses against the decay of her strength and power, as not all the wealth

of the kingdom can build her. And are there really no Englishmen in England who speak English? No Frenchmen in France who speak French? Under the flag of Saint George every mother's son, and, alas, every mother's daughter, talk slang from birth to death. Under the tricolor the daintiest lips drop argot as it were manna. Is it only in Boston that both languages are preserved in

their purity? It is foolish business to break butterffies on wheels, and it hurts our conscience to advertise "Onida" to 200,000 readers. But the appalling popularity of books like this makes the subject one of importance. "Under Two Flags" is the kind of novel one would expect to find in drinking shops, its pages ringed with ale, and redolent of pipes; er, in paper covers, vended in the ears, or sold in large numbers in Bow ery and Eighth-ave. bookstores, or crowding the shelves of second-rate circulating libraries. When it is constantly demanded at the counter of the "Mer cantile," and eagerly read by fascinated school-girls, with the aid of surreptitions candles, or seen lying on the center-table of intelligent persons, a conscient tions critic must rail in good-set terms.

It is said that "Ouida" is a woman. It is incredi-ble that books so coarse, so tawdry, so cheap, with leaves from the Newgate Calendar, the Betting Book, and the worst French novels, should be the work of any woman's hand. If they be, and "Oui da" resembles in the least her English sisters, the de generacy of the young men of her beautiful island ceases to be incredible, and becomes only terrible.

An indignant poet, in reference to a recent vol ume of whose verses we remarked that "not every son of of his pieces has been inserted in "Towne's School Reader," as a standard piece of declamation, and that for others he has been offered at the rate of seven dollars a column in a daily journal of this city. We think it an excellent bargain for the post, but it does not change our opinion of his poems. THE VALUE AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF TH

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THE MISSES HOWLAND'S ENGLISH and PRENCH BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL for Young Ladies and Children No. 22 East Therry-fifth-st, will REOPEN on MONDAY. Sept. 23. Miss H. will be at home on and after Sept. 12. Until then, address

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NoTICE to TAX-PAYERS.—Notice in horeby given that the Assessment-Holle of Tax-Books on Resi and Forest Fatale, for the year 1967 here been delivered to me, and install tax are now due and payable at this office. Payment thereof can be used to the the control of 6 a.m. and 2 p. m. A deduction of the reterent per cent per annum, calculated from the date of payment to the reterent per cent per annum, calculated from the date of payment to the of Nevember.